

Screen Australia

Screen Australia is pleased to present a select list of standout Australian documentaries. These are recent award winners or have been honoured with selection at high-profile international festivals. We've also included several new titles to keep an eye out for in 2010.

In Australia, over 330 hours of documentary are produced each year, with a production value of around \$74 million. Uncover documentaries dating back to 1980 via the Searchable Film Database at www.screenaustralia.gov.au/films

For the latest statistics download Screen Australia's report Documentary Production in Australia 2010 at www.screenaustralia.gov.au/gtp/docos/index.html

We hope you find this a useful starting point for discovering more about our documentaries.

DOCUMENTARY SNAPSHOT 2010

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Art & Soul

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3 x 55 mins, 2010, Arts & Culture / History

In this series about contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, Hetti Perkins, Senior Curator at the Art Gallery of NSW, invites us on a personal journey of discovery into a world of ideas and the imagination. Featuring artists from around Australia, their work is revealed as both a reflection of individual experience and an expression of contemporary cultural diversity.

Hibiscus Films and Art & Soul Films in association with Screen Australia, Screen NSW, Australia Council, Art Gallery of NSW and ABC TV.

www.hibiscusfilms.com.au/artandsoul.html

Producers
Director/DOP
Writer/Presenter

Bridget Ikin, Jo-anne McGowan

or/DOP Warwick Thornton
Presenter Hetti Perkins

Sales

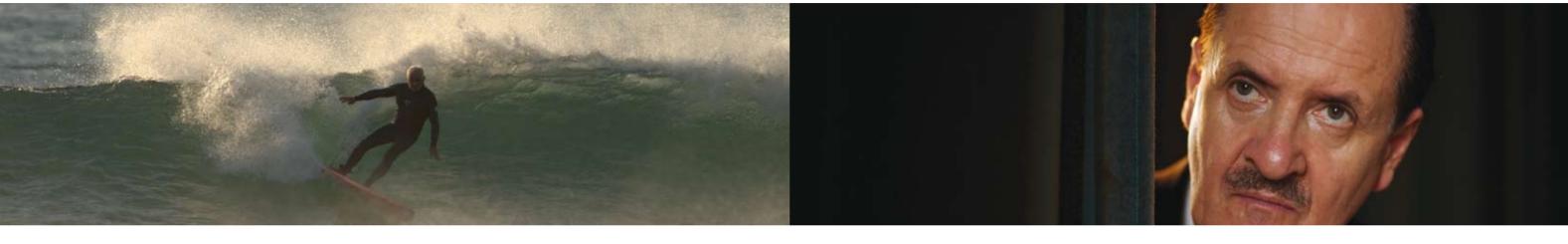
ABC Program Sales
Tel +61 2 8333 5351
abc.contentsales@abc.net.au
www.abccontentsales.com.au

Upcoming Screenings

2010 on ABC TV.

Going Vertical

I, Spry



87 mins, 2010, Surfing / History

An epic search for surfing's great truth – who started the Shortboard Revolution? The Americans have always claimed this breakthrough design to be their own, now for the first time Australian and American surfers tell both sides of this compelling story. *Going Vertical* features the legendary surfers who were a part of this story along with the greatest stars of surfing today and amazing archival footage.

BlueSeas Films in association with Screen Australia.

Producer Robert Raymond
Director David Bradbury

Writers David Margan, Phil Jarratt

Sales

Odin's Eye Entertainment Tel +61 403 914 317 info@odinseyeent.com www.odinseyeent.com

Upcoming Screenings

Australian theatrical release begins March 2010.

55 mins, 2010, History / Biography

The rise and fall of Australia's Cold War master spy – Charles Spry – and the intelligence agency he created in his own image. From the filmmaking team who made the award-winning historical dramas *Who Killed Dr Bogle and Mrs Chandler?* (2007) and *The Prime Minister is Missing* (2009).

Black Wattle Films in association with Screen Australia, Screen NSW and ABC TV.

Producers Anna Grieve, Peter Butt

Writer/Director Peter Butt

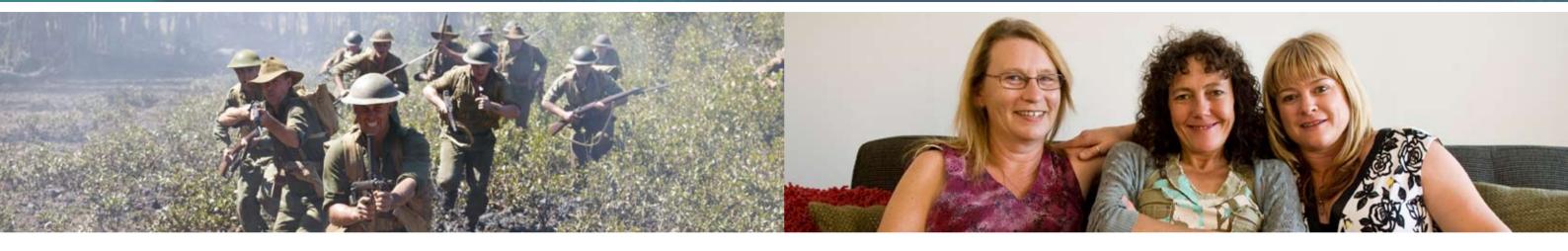
Sales

ABC Program Sales +61 2 8333 5351 abc.contentsales@abc.net.au www.abccontentsales.com.au

Upcoming Screenings

2010 on ABC TV.

Love Lust & Lies



2 x 55 mins, 2010, War / History

Kokoda was a savage military campaign fought without mercy between foes who seriously underestimated each other – a desperate campaign to keep Papua New Guinea from falling to the Japanese during the darkest days of World War II. Filmed in Australia, Japan and along the Kokoda Track, this series is a raw and intimate story of men under unimaginable pressure. Based on the book *Kokoda* by Paul Ham.

Pericles Films in association with Featherstone Productions, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Film Victoria and ABC TV. A Screen Australia Making History Program.

Producer Andrew Wiseman

Director Don Featherstone

Writers Don Featherstone, Andrew Wiseman, Uri Mizrahi

Sales

ABC Program Sales
Tel +61 2 8333 5351
abc.contentsales@abc.net.au
www.abccontentsales.com.au

Upcoming Screenings

2010 on ABC TV.

87 mins, 2010, Human Interest / Society

Acclaimed director Gillian Armstrong has followed three lively, working class Adelaide girls since 1976 when they were just 14. For more than 30 years, Kerry, Josie and Diana's struggles have captured our hearts. Now 47, the women's stories explore universal themes about families, love, loss, hopes and dreams. Love Lust & Lies is the fifth instalment in the series and follows Smokes and Lollies (1976), 14's Good, 18's Better (1980), Bingo, Bridesmaids and Braces (1988) and Not Fourteen Again (1995).

Big Picture Co and Spirited Films in association with Screen Australia, Screen NSW, SAFC and ABC TV.

Producers Writer/Director Jenny Day, Gillian Armstrong Gillian Armstrong

Sales

Spirited Films
Tel +61 2 9552 2634
spiritedfilms@iinet.net.au

Upcoming Screenings

AIDC February 2010; ABC TV late 2010. To be distributed by Beyond Home Ent.

Mr Sin: The Abe Saffron Story



75 mins / 52 mins, 2010, Music Biography

Mother of Rock shines a light into the decadent world of New York venue Max's Kansas City run by Australian music visionary Lillian Roxon. Lillian and her club were at the centre of the emerging rock revolution that rolled over the US in the 1960s and early 1970s. Features new interviews with Iggy Pop, Alice Cooper and Germaine Greer. Lillian's story is told through her letters, the testimony of rock journalists and her friends while also drawing on some of the best rock photography and archival sources.

Lowlands Media in association with Screen Australia, Film Victoria, Melbourne IFF Premiere Fund and SBS Independent.

Producer Writer/Director Robert de Young Paul Clarke

Sales

SBS Content Sales
Tel +61 2 9430 3975
contentsales@sbs.com.au
www.sbs.com.au/contentsales

Upcoming Screenings

World Premiere July 2010 Melbourne IFF, followed by SBS TV.

53 mins, 2010, Crime / Biography / History

A story of bribery, blackmail and corruption that examines how Australia's enigmatic crime boss Abe Saffron remained untouchable for so long.

Evershine in association with Screen Australia, Screen NSW and ABC TV.

Producer/DOP Helen Barrow
Writer/Director Hugh Piper

Sales

Evershine Pty Ltd Tel +61 2 9300 0497 evershine@ozemail.com.au

Upcoming Screenings

2010 on ABC TV.

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Penguin Island

Anatomy





6 x 30 mins / 3 x 1 hr, 2010, Wildlife & Nature / Science

The world famous Little Penguins of Phillip Island, Australia, entertain half a million tourists each year with their sunset parade from the surf to their burrows. But what the public don't know is that their private lives are even more interesting. The series follows three penguin couples, living in a colony where relationships are fraught, affairs commonplace, and danger lurks around every corner.

360 Degree Films in association with Screen Australia, Film Victoria, ABC TV, BBC and Arte.

Producer Sally Ingleton
Writer/Series Director Simon Target
Field Director Hayley Smith

Sales

National Geographic TV Intl Tel +44 20 7751 7555 info@natgeotv-int.com www.natgeotv-int.com

Upcoming Screenings

2010 on ABC TV.

3 x 30 mins, 2008, Arts & Culture / Sexuality

Three unusual and compelling stories explore how sexuality and the body work as driving forces in the creative process. These films are thematically linked but are also a complete story in themselves. The episodes, titled *Muscle*, *Skin* and *Heart* are each directed by a new filmmaker. A second series of *Anatomy* will be completed in 2010.

"An innovative arts series" - The Melbourne Age

Big and Little Films in association with Screen Australia, Film Victoria and ABC TV.

Producers Michael McMahon, Tony Ayres

Directors Natasha Gadd (Muscle), Rhys Graham (Skin), Amy Gebhardt (Heart)

Sales

Smiley Film Sales Tel +64 9 360 0325 bigio@smileyfilmsales.com www.smileyfilmsales.com

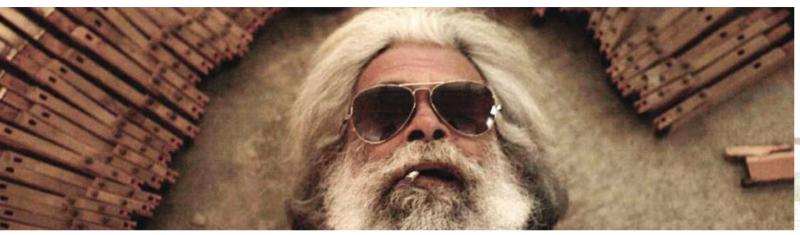
Awards and Festivals

2009: Best Short Documentary WW Short FF (Skin); Tribeca (Skin).

2008: Best Documentary Melbourne IFF (Heart); Best Director Short Documentary ADG Awards (Muscle); Sheffield DocFest (Heart); IDFA (Skin); Full Frame (Series).

Bastardy: A Portrait of Jack Charles

Big Stories, Small Towns





90 mins, 2008, Human Interest / Society

Aboriginal elder, actor, cat burglar, junkie and gay, Jack Charles is a man of irrepressible contradictions and conflicting personas. Over six years, *Bastardy* follows Jack in and out of jail as he traverses the criminal underworld to support his raging heroin habit – all the while performing on the stages and film sets of some of Australia's most renowned directors.

"An absorbing, confronting documentary... a festival highlight" – The Melbourne Age
"An unforgettable portrait... extraordinary... a must-see" – Filmink

Film Camp in association with Screen Australia, Film Victoria, Melbourne IFF Premiere Fund, ABC TV, Flood Projects and Ghost Pictures.

www.bastardydocumentary.com

Producers Philippa Campey
Writer/Director Amiel Courtin-Wilson

Sales

Film Camp
Tel +61 410 665 032
pip@filmcamp.com.au
www.filmcamp.com.au

Awards and Festivals

2010: Special Jury Prize Pacific IDFF. 2009: Jury Prize Best Documentary FCCA Awards; Best Documentary Human Story ATOM Awards; Sheffield DocFest.

90 mins / online, 2009, Human Interest

A multi-platform online project that tells the story of the country town of Port Augusta, South Australia, through the eyes of its long-term residents.

"One of the best international digital storytelling sites" - Bay Area Video Coalition

"A perfect example of the new frontier of cross-platform storytelling: imaginative and immediate" - Sheffield DocFest

Screen Australia NDP Program and Media Resource Centre in association with SAFC.

www.bigstories.com.au

Producer Martin Potter

Directors Jeni Lee, Sieh Mchawala

Sales

Screen Australia Tel +61 2 8113 1064 sales@screenaustralia.gov.au www.screenaustralia.gov.au

Festivals

2010: SXSW Interactive. 2009: IDFA: Sheffield DocFest.

Cicada Contact



9 mins, 2008, Biography

Cicada is the immersive story of a five-year-old child who witnessed a murder. Daniel P Jones confronts a traumatic memory in an incendiary, visceral monologue. Based on an original story.

Hussey and Flood Projects production.

Producers Sally Hussey, Amiel Courtin-Wilson

Director Amiel Courtin-Wilson

Writers Amiel Courtin-Wilson and Daniel P Jones

Sales

Sally Hussey sally@sallyhussey.com

Festivals

2010: Clermont-Ferrand.

2009: Cannes Directors' Fortnight;

Sheffield DocFest.

78 mins / 52 mins, 2009, History / Indigenous

Yuwali was just 17 when her fully traditional lifestyle ended with the arrival of patrol officers from Woomera. A space rocket, the Blue Streak, was to be fired at her home. Her group of 20 had never seen or heard of white people, and the chase and contact were all filmed and photographed. Survivors on both sides of the clash of cultures tell the intimate story.

"★★★★ Beautifully shot... captures the collision of modern and ancient worlds"

- Sydney Morning Herald

Contact Films in association with Screen Australia, Arte and ABC TV.

www.contactfilms.com.au

Producers/Writers/Directors Bentley Dean, Martin Butler

Sales

ABC Program Sales
Tel +61 2 8333 5351
abc.contentsales@abc.net.au
www.abccontentsales.com.au

Awards and Festivals

2009: Best Direction stand-alone Documentary ADG Awards; FOXTEL Australian Documentary Prize; Sydney FF: IDFA.

First Australians: The Untold Story of Australia

Glass: A Portrait of Philip in Twelve Parts





1 x 70 mins / 6 x 52 mins, 2008, History / Indigenous

Produced by Australia's finest Aboriginal filmmakers, this astonishing series chronicles the birth of a country and the collision of two worlds. It's an epic story that comes alive through the struggles of individuals, both black and white. Beautifully filmed, the series melds landscape, art, interviews and first-hand accounts with a vast archival collection to present the birth of contemporary Australia as never seen before, from the perspective of its first people – the first Australians.

Blackfella Films and First Nation in association with SBS TV, Screen Australia, Screen NSW, SAFC, ScreenWest and ITVS International.

www.sbs.com.au/firstaustralians

Producers Darren Dale, Rachel Perkins Directors Rachel Perkins, Beck Cole Writers Rachel Perkins, Beck Cole, Louis Nowra

Sales

SBS Content Sales Tel +61 2 9430 3975 contentsales@sbs.com.au www.sbs.com.au/contentsales

Awards

2009: Best Documentary Series AFI Awards; Most Outstanding Documentary Logies; Best Direction in a Documentary Series ADG Awards; Best Documentary AWG Awards; Script Writing Award NSW Premier's Literary Awards; Best TV Documentary UN Media Peace Awards.

114 mins, 2008, Arts & Culture / Biography

In July 2005, acclaimed filmmaker Scott Hicks started shooting a documentary about the composer Philip Glass to celebrate his 70th anniversary in 2007. Over the next 18 months, Scott followed Philip across three continents - from his annual ride on the Coney Island 'Cyclone' roller coaster, to the world premiere of his new opera in Germany and in performance with a didgeridoo virtuoso in Australia. Granted unprecedented access to Glass' working process, family life, spiritual teachers and long time collaborators, Hicks gives us a unique glimpse behind the curtain into the life of a surprising and complex man.

"One of the best films I have seen about the mind of a creative artist" - The Australian "Fascinating... as haunting as one of Glass' own works" - New York magazine

Kino Films and Independent Media, an Ava Bridge Motion Pictures production in association with Kojo Pictures.

www.glassthemovie.com

Writer/Director

Scott Hicks. Susanne Preissler

Scott Hicks

Producers

Sales

The Film Sales Co. Tel +1 212 481 5020 contact@filmsalescorp.com www.filmsalescorp.com

Awards and Festivals

2009: AFI Award for Best Feature Documentary: EMMY ® Nominee Editing Nonfiction; Short Listed Nominee 81st Academy Awards ® Best Documentary; Mar del Plata.

A Good Man

Honeybee Blues



79 mins / 55 mins, 2008, Society & Politics / Human Interest

A Good Man tells the story of a struggling Australian farmer, his incurably quadriplegic wife, their newborn baby and their plans to open a brothel in a small country town.

"Inspiring, touching and unexpectedly funny... boldly turns preconceptions about disability and masculine stereotypes on their head" - Silverdocs

Divana Films in association with Screen Australia, Adelaide IFF and ABC TV.

Safina Uberoi, Himman Dhamija, Jenny Day Producers

Writer/Director Safina Uberoi

Sales

Films Transit Canada Tel +1 514 844 3358 office@filmstransit.com www.filmstransit.com

Awards and Festivals

2009: FOXTEL Australian Documentary Prize Sydney FF; IDFA; Hot Docs, Silverdocs.

52 mins, 2009, Wildlife & Nature / Science

The story of the world's disappearing honeybees and the efforts of Australian scientist Dr Denis Anderson to save them from annihilation. From the native bush and orchards of Australia to the industrial farmlands of the United States and the highlands of Papua New Guinea, Honeybee Blues is a scientific detective story that tells a 21st century cautionary tale.

"A disturbing yet illuminating piece of work" - Sydney Morning Herald

Mitra Films in association with Screen NSW, Melbourne Community Foundation, Documentary Australia Foundation and SBS TV. A Screen Australia NDP Program.

www.screenaustralia.gov.au/showcases/honeybeeblues

Producers Anna Cater, Susan MacKinnon www.natgeotv-int.com

National Geographic TV Intl

Tel +44 20 7751 7555

info@natgeotv-int.com

Awards and Festivals

2010: Toyko Earth Vision Award; Guangzhou. 2009: Best Documentary Sydney Morning Herald TV Critics Awards; Honourable Mention Columbus IFF.

Writer/Director Stefan Moore

Intangible Asset Number 82

The Last Confession of Alexander Pearce





90 mins, 2008, Arts & Culture / Music

The story of a respected jazz drummer and his search for an elusive South Korean shaman and grandmaster musician. The journey becomes a rite of passage as he meets engaging and exotic characters, and overcomes cultural obstacles and the march of time to eventually meet the master only days before his death.

"A testament to the power of music and mysticism" - Washington City Paper

In The Sprocket in association with Screen Australia and Film Victoria.

www.intangibleasset82.com

Producer/Writer/Director Emma Franz

Sales

In The Sprocket Productions Tel +61 421 581 630 emmafranz@me.com

Awards and Festivals

2009: Best Documentary Durban IFF; Hot Docs; Silver Docs; SXSW; Guangzhou.

60 mins, 2009, History

Follows the final days of Irish convict Alexander Pearce's life as he awaits execution in 1824 in the British penal colony of Van Diemen's Land. Told as a factual drama, it draws a visceral and compelling picture of a hell on earth and tells how one man endured the unimaginable by doing the unthinkable.

"★★★★" - Empire magazine

"A watershed moment... stunning performances" - The West Australian

Essential Media & Entertainment in association with Screen Australia, Screen Tasmania, BBC Northern Ireland, RTÉ Ireland, History Channel UK and ABC TV.

www.thelastconfession.com

Producer Nial Fulton

Director Michael James Rowland

Writers Michael James Rowland, Nial Fulton

Sales

Hopscotch Films & Ent Tel +61 2 8303 3800 info@hopscotchfilms.com.au www.hopscotchfilms.com.au

Awards

2009: Best Documentary IF Awards; Special Jury Award Newport IFF; Best Music for a TV Feature APRA Screen Music Awards.

Mankind is No Island



9 mins, 2008, Society / Human Interest

As dusk approaches and workers stream out of the city, Maia, a Bulgarian immigrant is about to begin her day. She reflects on life, work and toilet bowls as she goes about her nightly cleaning round through silent, empty spaces.

Feather Films production in association with Open Channel's Raw Nerve initiative and Screen Australia.

Producer

Melanie Brunt. Stuart Parkvn

Writer/Director Adrian Francis

Sales

Feather Films
Tel +61 438 680 068
melanie@featherfilms.com.au
www.featherfilms.com.au

Awards and Festivals

2009: Special Jury Mention Palace SFF; Special Mention Interfilm Berlin; Grand Prix, Best Documentary & Best Photography Awards at Intl TV Festival Bar Montenegro; Sundance; Karlovy Vary; Edinburgh; Visions du Reel; Silver Docs; Seattle.

3 mins 30 secs, 2008, Experimental / Human Interest

Shot entirely on a mobile phone on the streets of NY and Sydney, this short documentary challenges our understanding of homeless communities. The film has been a break-out hit online and has been watched 750,000 times on YouTube and Vimeo.

"A moving, poetic and inspired story about homelessness without a single word spoken" – Courier Mail "A beautiful film... a daring poetic project" – Geoffrey Rush

Treehouse Creative Enterprises.

Producers Jason Van Genderen, Shane Emmett

Director Jason Van Genderen

Sales

Treehouse
Tel +61 2 4322 0411
ideas@treehousecreative.com
www.treehousecreative.com

Awards

2009: Best Short Documentary IF Awards.2008: Best Film Tropfest NY.

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The Miscreants of Taliwood

A Northern Town



92 mins, 2009, Politics & Society / Current Affairs

Maverick director George Gittoes' 'Extreme Tour of Terror Central' – a totally surprising, sometimes funny, sometimes terrifying journey into the forbidden zones of Pakistan's North-West Frontier. *The Miscreants* is the third instalment in George Gittoes' *No Exit Trilogy* which also includes *Soundtrack to War* (2004) and *Rampage* (2005).

"Falls somewhere between performance art and gonzo journalism, with Gittoes risking his neck on a stunt few beyond the festival and gallery sphere will see." – Variety

Gittoes & Dalton in association with Screen Australia and SBS TV.

www.gittoes-dalton-films.com

Producer Gabrielle Dalton
Director George Gittoes

Sales

SBS Content Sales
Tel +61 2 9430 3975
contentsales@sbs.com.au
www.sbs.com.au/contentsales

Festivals

2010: Documentary Fortnight MOMA NY. 2009: Telluride: IDFA.

75 mins / 52 mins, 2008, History / Politics & Society / Indigenous

Set in a radical, Indigenous owned and operated aged care facility in an infamous country town, this powerful film tells of parallel racial history and our shared humanity.

"Beautiful to watch... surprises the viewer from the first frame... unpredictable but always revealing" – Judges' comments NSW Premier's History Awards

Pony Films in association with Screen Australia, Screen NSW and SBS TV.

Producer Dylan Blowen
Writer/Director Rachel Landers

Sales

SBS Content Sales Tel +61 2 9430 3975 contentsales@sbs.com.au www.sbs.com.au/contentsales

Awards and Festivals

2009: Multimedia History Prize NSW
Premier's History Awards; AFI Best
Cinematographer Documentary; Jury
Prize Short Documentary FCCA Awards.
2008: Special Commendation Promotion
of Aboriginal Reconciliation Award UN
Media Peace Awards; Sheffield DocFest.

Not Quite Hollywood

Rare Chicken Rescue





In the 70s and 80s a uniquely antipodean wave of exploitation cinema swept the world. Shlocky, sexy and very funny, 'Ozploitation' became one of the most prolific and successful periods in Australian filmmaking – and yet it rarely rates a mention in the official histories of cinema. Filled with outrageous anecdotes and lessons in maverick filmmaking, and featuring interviews with celebrity devotee Quentin Tarantino, this is a fast-moving journey through a very Australian slice of genre cinema.

"Startling and very funny... Its rapid-fire editing, split screens, digital animation and irreverence jolts the tired art of the Australian documentary into the 21st century" – *The Australian*

City Films World Wide in association with Screen Australia, Film Victoria, Madman Cinema and Magnet Releasing.

www.notquitehollywood.com.au

Producers Michael Lynch, Craig Griffin

Writer/Director Mark Hartley

Sales

Magnolia Pictures
Tel +1 212 924 6701
acquisitions@magpictures.com
www.magpictures.com

Awards and Festivals

2009: Best Documentary FCCA Awards; Rotterdam. 2008: Best Documentary AFI Awards; Toronto IFF.

26 mins, 2008, Wildlife & Nature / Human Interest

After a long battle with depression, Queensland rare chicken breeder Mark Tully is now on a mission to protect the endangered chickens to which he owes his life. He begins an epic "chicken chase" fuelled by a determination to find "lost" breeds of poultry before they are gone forever. His search covers almost 10,000 kilometres and five Australian states as he tracks down rare heritage breeds and meets others who share his passion.

"A beautiful, simple tale... funny, heartfelt, and surprisingly moving" - Sunday Age

Freshwater in association with PFTC and ABC TV. Screen Australia NDP Program.

www.filmaustralia.com.au/rarechickenrescue

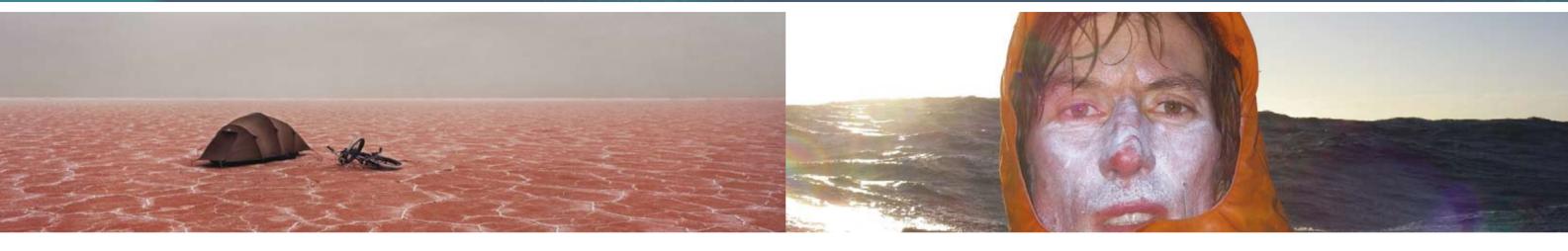
Producers Vickie Gest, Trish Lake
Writer/Director Randall Wood

Sales

ABC Program Sales
Tel +61 2 8333 5351
abc.contentsales@abc.net.au
www.abccontentsales.com.au

Awards

2009: Best Documentary Short FCCA Awards; Grand Jury Award Best Documentary Short Slamdance. 2008: Best Documentary Sydney FF Dendy Awards. Salt Solo



28 mins, 2009, Arts & Culture / Wildlife & Nature

Photographer Murray Fredericks' extreme journey to capture the heart of the world's most desolate landscape on Lake Eyre, in the remote north of South Australia.

Jerrycan Films in association with Screen Australia, PFTC, Adelaide IFF and ABC TV.

www.saltdoco.com

Producer Michael Angus

Directors Michael Angus, Murray Fredericks

Sales

Jerrycan Films
Tel +61 7 5545 3319
mick@jerrycanfilms.com.au
www.jerrycanfilms.com.au

Awards and Festivals

2010: Special Jury Mention Flickerfest.
2009: Distinguished Documentary Short IDA
Association Awards; Special Jury Award
Silverdocs; Best Australian Short Melbourne
IFF; Grand Prix Pluscamerimage; Best
Documentary Short Atlanta FF; IDFA.

56 mins, 2008, Adventure / Human Interest

The story of Andrew McAuley's attempt to become the first person to kayak 1,600 kilometres from Australia to New Zealand across one of the wildest and loneliest stretches of ocean on Earth.

"★★★★ An astonishing documentary... Unforgettable" – Empire

"★★★★ Moving... heartbreaking... a fitting testament to an extraordinary individual" - Sunday Age

Essential Media and Entertainment in association with BBC, ITVS, National Geographic and ABC TV.

Producer Jen Peedom

Directors Jen Peedom, David Michôd

Sales

RDF Rights
Tel +44 20 7013 4400
sales@rdfrights.com
www.rdfrights.com

Awards

2009: Grand Prix Prague IFF; Best Short Documentary AFI Awards; Best Film on Mountain Sport BANFF Mountain FF; Grand Prix Award Festival du Film Voyage & Adventure; Grand Jury Prize Vancouver Intl Mountain FF; Grand Prize Hory a Mesto FF; Sheffield; IDFA.

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